

Dec 29, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

DANIELLE JACKSON OFFICE (206) 768-6653

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND CAEL ADDRESS CRITICAL NURSING SHORTAGE WITH WASHINGTON STATE PILOT PROJECT

*Site Coordinator named for Career Lattice Initiative that Trains Healthcare Workers on the
Job and Offers Paths to Advancement*

The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) today announced the appointment of Danielle Jackson as Site Coordinator for its Nursing Career Lattice pilot project in Washington State. The Career Lattice Program model is being implemented at five pilot sites across the country by CAEL in collaboration with the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor under a \$2 million grant that focuses on increasing the number of Certified Nurses Aides (CNAs), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) throughout the nation.

"This high-quality apprenticeship training program provides a structured career path for professional development," said Anthony Swoope, Administrator of the U.S. Labor Department's Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services (ATELS). "Apprentices who complete the program will have advanced skills with career paths, their patients will have the assurance of excellent care, and health care providers will have a guaranteed source of highly trained workers," he stated.

"Our approach uses innovative models for the delivery of clinical and didactic training to make it easier for participants to earn nursing credentials while continuing to work, and to advance in their careers. The goal is to encourage careers in nursing, particularly among adults and demographic groups underrepresented in the industry," stated Pamela Tate, CAEL President and CEO.

Participants in CAEL's Washington State program will be employed by the partner healthcare facilities while they are training. This program is a competency-based Registered Apprenticeship, certified by the U.S. Department of Labor. It is designed to draw enrollees from incumbent workers at hospitals and long-term healthcare facilities, high schools, and workforce investment system One-Stop Centers. The top rung of the lattice is a partial online program that enables LPNs to advance to RN positions.

CAEL's Site Coordinator will promote enrollment and facilitate the activities of the local program partners, comprised of hospitals and long-term healthcare facilities, community colleges, One-Stop Career Centers and Workforce Investment Boards, State apprenticeship training offices, labor unions, and community based organizations.

Ms. Jackson brings to her new position a background in management and training that includes developing hospital apprenticeship programs in computer tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Organizational Management, researching job satisfaction among nurses.

CAEL is a national, non-profit organization that expands lifelong learning opportunities for adults through partnerships with higher education, business, government and labor.

National Headquarters	Telephone	312.499.2600	Website	www.cael.org
55 E. Monroe St., Suite 1930	Facsimile	312.499.2601		
Chicago, IL 60603				